Leicester, Massachusetts, April 29th 1847.

My dear Mrs Estlin,

It is quite a pleasure to me to get engaged in a letter to you, though I always foresee that I shall not stop very soon. I frequently think how singular it is that you and I should have become such correspondents! Mr. James made the first proposition to me (in Bristol, and in England) to become a correspondent with him; and I remember well my feeling that I should not be likely to have anything to write that would be worth sending over the sea. Mr. James wrote me the first letter I ever received from Bristol; it was sent to me at Birmingham I think, about 2 months after I had been in Bristol, and I replied to his inquiries. This led to Mr. Armstrong's letter making farther inquiries on the Antislavery question, & suggesting that I should write something for publication in one of your journals. Accordingly I wrote him a long story which, you may remember, has since been published. Thus grew up a correspondence between Mr. A. and myself; and, after a time, I had a brief note from you respecting the annual Antislavery Fair in Boston, & committing to my care, for sale there, some little packets of the hair of Rammohun Roy. Thence grew our correspondence. Meantime I have, from the beginning, been favoured with occasional letters & notes from Miss Carpenter; and all these, from the first to the last, have been a source of real pleasure to me. I thank you all, for the pleasure & profit I have derived from this intercourse; and I cherish deeply the hope that it may long continue. — But why do I make so long a preface, when I have so much to say! I sympathize with your feeling, expressed in a late note, that, though you had intended to throw off the burden of public cares and duties, they seemed to press upon you more than ever. It often seems to me as if the world grew busier, or rather the business to be done in the world grew greater, every year; and I am often sad to think how little I can accomplish compared with what I should be glad to do, and what seems imperatively necessary to be done, right away. But, let me say, that 61 is not so old as you seem to think. My father, who is in his 71st year, never seemed to me more hearty & active than now; but perhaps he has naturally a stronger constitution than you have; and I do not forget your still recent, severe sickness, and the effect it must have had upon you. Still I hope you will see many years yet of vigour & happiness, & be able to render much service to the great & good causes which you have at heart.

The "Damascus" arrived in Boston early in April - say the 7th or 8th. She had a terrible time of it; was about 80 days (I think) from Bristol to Boston. She was obliged to put back when some time at sea, & go into Cork to refit. I received your letter, and parcel, (by the Captain) April 10th; your letter was dated January 12th. The Captain paid to my father a sovereign on your account, which I have paid to R. F. Wallcutt, General agent for the "Liberator". You will receive

the "Liberator", I doubt not, according to your wish. It has been sent, Mr. W. said, since the 17th of February. Through some mistake, Mr. W. understood that you wished 2 copies of the paper, and for a while you may have received two; but I explained to him that it was a second copy you wanted, the first being the one you & Mrs. James have taken together. It will go right hereafter. — Do I write too fine & faint for your easy reading? If so, tell me, and I will not try to crowd so ~~much~~ many words upon a single sheet. And, by the way, is this paper too thin to be handled & folded? It is some English paper which I bought for foreign correspondence. — Your sovereign will pay for about 2 years of the paper; the subscription being $2. a year, and 1 cent being paid on each paper at the Boston Post office; its value is $4.83 of our money.

I was in Boston last week, and had the pleasure to take Frederick Douglass by the hand once more. It was not ~~and~~ a mere fancy, I am sure, that I thought he looked decidedly more erect and noble than I had ever seen him. It struck me the moment my eyes rested upon him. Almost the first thing he said to me, was to thank me for the letter of introduction to you which I gave him. He expressed his great objections to you, his regard for you — and all his words confirmed the opinion you expressed, in your note to me by him, that he had felt increasing confidence in you. I had not much talk with him; it was at the Anti-Slavery Office, and many persons were there, and they kept coming in, and F. D. had quite a levee. He seemed to me more than in flesh, than when I saw him last. But I must tell you of his passage home, as I have gathered the particulars from several reliable sources. I did not talk with him about it, ~~about it~~ as the thing did not occur to me while we were together. He engaged his passage at Liverpool in the Cambria, and paid for it, securing a berth. When he went on board, he was coolly informed that he could not have the berth which he had engaged, and for which he had paid his money. The Directors of the Steamship Company said it was necessary they should not offend their American patrons (!), and Mr. Douglass could not be permitted to have that berth, nor to go into the Saloon at all, with the other passengers, at meal-times, or others. This mean and dishonest act of the Steamship Company ought to be exposed. It is bad enough to find this truckling to Slaveholders in our own country; but when we find it in an English community, it seems too shameful to be thought of. By the way, I remember to have heard that it was a Glasgow company which now owned these Mail Steamships. Is it so? I had been inclined to believe there was no good foundation for the opinion, which I know many Englishmen have had of the Scotch, that they suffered their interests (pecuniary) to get the better often of their principles. In such a case as this, I should question whether the men had any principles, save ~~that~~ the love of gold. A nobler man than Frederick Douglass was not in that ship; and I am glad to be able to add that Capt. Judkins, as I am informed, took

much pains to make him forget his ill-treatment. Capt. J. even gave up to him his own state-rooms; a thing, it is said, he had done only to one person before, viz. the Governa-General of Canada, the Earl of Elgin. There he received every attention from the Officers of the Ship, and also from the English passengers on board, as I was informed, so that, as a friend remarked to me, he was really quite a lion on board the Ship. But it must have been very painful, after the kind, nay the most warm & affectionate, treatment he had experienced for a year and a half in Gt. Britain & Ireland, to be thus met, the instant his face was turned toward America, with insult, because God had been pleased to give him a darker complexion than to some others! I cannot express how contemptible and cruel this prejudice now appears to me. I wish something could be done to make this avaricious Steam-company answer to the British public for their baseness and their fraud. I wish, if you please, that you would make the above facts public, in such way as you think best. — F. D. is in great demand now, to attend meetings here and there. He is to be in New York, at the annual meeting of the American Anti-slavery Society, the 2d week in May. I am expecting to be there myself - not having attended this meeting since 1840 — 7 years! The reason is that the the New York Anniversaries come so near those in Boston - only 2 weeks earlier - that it is not convenient, usually, to be absent from home the greater part of 2 weeks, coming so near together; and the expenses of an additional journey are always to be considered by those living on a minister's income. This year, there are some unusual inducements; and Brooklyn (Connecticut) (where I am still supplying the pulpit of the Unitarian Society, & where I spend from one-third to one-half my time) is on the direct route hence to New York.

Let me thank you for the pamphlets, &c. which you sent me, by the "Damascus", all which came in good order. I am very glad to get a copy of the Br. & Irish Unitarian Almanack. The various other pamphlets on Slavery, the Evang. Alliance, Ragged Schools, etc. (some additional ones by F. Douglass on this latter subject) are all very acceptable. I am going to make another effort to send you some pamphlets, and hope you will get them. I am sorry I have not a copy of Palfrey's Letter on the Slave Power to put in; but forgot it when I was in Boston. My father said to me, as I was talking of the carelessness of the Ship agents in Boston in allowing that parcel I sent you to get into the Mail-bag, "Well! do you make up another parcel, and I will hand it to Capt. Gordon who will sail the 5th of May in the Anglo-Saxon, and he will hand it directly to Mr. George Wright in Liverpool". So I shall do it. I mean to send a copy of our Unitarian annual Register, one of the last annual Report of Massachusetts anti-slavery Society, one of Mr. Parker's Pillsbury's "Church as it is", &c. and two little volumes for Miss Esther — and I hope they will not have to be abandoned to the British Post office. I shall mark the parcel, "By Railway", as you suggested some time since.

When I wrote you last, I spoke of the state of the Anti-Slavery question in Congress, and the hopeful action on what was called the Wilmot Pro did I predict, in my letter to you, the way in which that would be defeate I did to many others here, who afterwards (some of them) spoke to me of the exact fulfilment of my words. It needed, indeed, no ghost to tell an Abolitionist that Slavery would find ways enough to make the North succumb & retreat. The "Wilmot Proviso" had a majority of 9 in the House of Representatives - the Senate, as every body knew they would, rejected the "Proviso"; - in order, therefore, to secure the 3 million dollars to Mr. Polk, to which the proviso was attached, it became necessary to coax, bribe, or otherwise induce five men - this was the least number that would do i five men, of the majority in the House, to reverse their votes, eat their words, and become traitors of the worst sort; and this was my prediction, viz. that efforts would be made to buy over 5 men. And it happened to turn out jus so. Five men of the majority turned about and voted to throw the Provis overboard, and it was done. Many, understanding how the thing had gone, did not vote at all, at last; so there were some dozen or more majority to th out the "Proviso". The President got his 3 million dollars, to make peace with!! Now we are told that there is no likelihood of peace at present. - The American arms have been quite successful in Mexico, as you will have seen; but it is a most dishonorable, & ignominious success. Reverses ma come yet; I should be glad to see the American army driven out of Me for my sympathies are all with the people, who are fighting for their native land & their homes, and emphatically for liberty, and not with the bloodthirsty army which has gone forth from this land in the service of Slavery. I wish no life lost, on either side; it gives me no pleasure, but quite the reverse, to hear of the destruction on either side. But I would rejoice in the expulsi of the American arms from Mexico, and in the humiliation of the despotic and grasping spirit which sent them there.

You have doubtless seen, in the Liberator, a few articles on the positi of the Unitarian body here in reference to Slavery. The matter was started b a young gentleman in New Bedford, William P. Atkinson; and who, among th strange things which actual life has, happens to be son-in-law to Rev. Dr. Park one of the most pro-slavery men in all the North, and holding abolitionism in utter scorn - an easy man, loving the good things of the world, and abhorring the agitation which some men will keep up in the body politic. Atkins is the very antipodes of his reverend father-in-law; and, after many argume tations, they have decided to "agree to differ"! He is a young man, somewhat impetuous, but very noble in character, and of much promise. He was stirre to rebuke the Unitarians for various short comings, a leading sin being t they had a Slaveholder for Vice President. The controversy, I have no doubt, has done good. I wrote to James F. Clarke, one of the Executive

Committee of the Am. Unit. Assoc., inquiring how Mr. Whittridge, the V.P. in question, came to be nominated. In reply he said it was without his knowledge - that Mr. Briggs (General Secretary) said it was the suggestion of one of the Ex. Com., made rather hastily & without consideration (I confess to much skepticism on this point) - but, that Mr. Briggs agreed with him (Mr. Clarke) in thinking that no Slaveholder should hold any office in the Assoc., however meritorious in other respects, and he ventured to say that, after next May, no Slaveholder would ever again hold any office of trust or emolument in the A.U.A! This is good. So you may look out for a shaking in the Assoc. There is good hope that a lustration will be accomplished. - You will be pleased - so will Miss Carpenter - to hear one thing of our friend Dr. Gannett. On Fast day (a few weeks since) he preached a Sermon in which, among other things, he said that he had formerly thought and said that Silence was the duty of the North, with regard to Slavery; but he had become convinced that he was wrong; he now thought that we ought to speak, wisely, temperately, &c. &c. but in a firm tone, according to Christian truth, &c. &c. This is a significant change - ominous of the sinking & abandonment of the forel craft of pro-slavery. Yet do I not rank Mr. Gannett among pro-slavery men, nor have I ever done so. He knows & admits all the wrong of Slavery; he has never, to my knowledge, put forth indirect & insidious apologies for it. But he is a very peculiar man; very quick-tempered, self-willed, but honorable, candid, and ready to do full justice to an opponent. I have had many severe passages with him within the last 6 years - frequently he has opened all the vials of his wrath upon me; once, in the open street, and the most public one in Boston, (this was but a year ago), as we walked together, he told me, in vociferous tones, & shaking his 2 canes, that I was "the most doing the most harm of any man in Massachusetts"! "for" said he "Mr. Garrison, and such men, are known to be untrustworthy (or some expression like this), and what they write and say is estimated accordingly; but no one can bring any such charge against you." I could but thank him, for the compliment expressed, notwithstanding the storm of scolding in midst of which it came. - It is, therefore, a great satisfaction to me to find him thus yielding, though slowly, to the influences of truth. He is too honest & good a man, not to be an Abolitionist. With all his faults, he is worthy of a prominent place in their ranks. But I fear he will not attain it, till all the scales fall from his eyes, in heaven. I am told that, since his wife's death, his sermons have ~~to~~ possessed greater interest than ever - more tender, & spiritual; more full of sympathy for all suffering. —

I am deeply interested - in common with my wife & children - in Howitt's Journal, of which we have received 3 monthly parts. It seems to me far, far

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superior to the "People's Journal". Of the latter I have, to be sure, seen not more than half the numbers, but have never been much interested in it. The former seems to be very perfect, of its kind. The notice of George Sand, in the monthly part for March, is the only one I've ever seen which I thought did justice to that writer's heart & spirit, as these are unfolded in "Consuelo" the only one of her works which I have read. The paper, in same number, on the "Bristol Ragged School" I suppose to be by Miss Carpenter. — I must stop to congratulate you on that school, and on the encouragement you have had in it, as well as upon the teacher whose services you had secured. There are some really touching incidents. I have sent to the "Christian World" and "Anti-Slavery Standard" some of the pamphlets which you and Miss C. sent me about the School. — We deeply regret the controversy between Saunders & the Howitts. But I think W.H. has shown that he had reason good to escape from his connexion with such a man. I have not seen Saunders's reply to W. H.'s "Reply to his "appeal", &c. This literary quarrel excites a good deal of interest here. I think Mr. Howitt must have some faults of temper, and many, who are entirely friendly to him, think him quite too sensitive. On the advertising sheet of the March number, he has very unjustly accused Crosby & Nichols, (Boston Agents for both Howitt's & the People's Journal) of deception in regard to their (the Howitts') connexion with the People's Journal. Now, that advertisement was only the continuation of an old one — so Mr. Crosby assured me — of near a year's standing — was printed off, and made ready for the March Examiner before anything was known here of the difficulty between the Hs. & Mr. S. — I hope H.'s Journal will succeed. They are certainly better able than Mr. S., I should say, every way better, to conduct such a Journal as it should be. ——

I have made extracts from your letter by F. Douglass, and sent them to the "Anti-Slavery Standard", where they will doubtless appear next week. I am very glad that Douglass has done so well, and secured your esteem & confidence. — We hear a sad story of George Thompson being — in a partially inebriated condition, assaulting a person in a public conveyance. I hope he will keep clear of such bouts, in future.

I have exhausted my room, but not my topics. I wished very much to speak of your "Brief Notice", and reply to some of your inquiries. I will try to do so, in the parcel containing pamphlets. Henry Clapp, Jr. made some gross mis-statements to you; — that Mr. Garrison never advocated the Dissolution of the Union at home, in America; it would be just as true, & as quick believed, if he had said he never said anything against Slavery, here. You request me not to make public what you said of H. Clapp Jr. But, suppose he was to return here, and begin to vent his calumnies on Mr. Garrison & others, would you not be willing that I should make public what he said falsely in Bristol about Mr. G., the "Liberty Party", &c.? — I was told that F. Douglass got his trunks, &c, through the Custom house pretty favorably. He had no duty to pay on the Silver links (which I hope to see by the way), nor on his books to any great extent, I believe. —

I am pleased to hear that the notices of the Bazaar met your wishes. I endeavored to have the matter suitably & seasonably attended to. — "Here must I hold
With my regards to your daughter, Believe me to be, Yours, with sincere respect, S. M